

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed April 20, 2006, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, the Applicant submits the following remarks and has canceled claims. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-14, 16, 17, 19-29, 31, and 33-40 were pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 21-25 and 34 have been canceled. The Applicant expressly reserves the right to prosecute at least some of the canceled claims and similar claims in one or more related Applications. Claim 33 has also been cancelled and independent claim 1 amended with the content of claim 33. Additionally, independent claims 7, 13, 14, 17, 20, 26, 28, 35, and 40 have been amended to include the content of claim 33. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-7, 9-14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 26-29, 31, and 35-40 are now pending in this Application. Claims 1, 7, 13, 14, 17, 20, 26, 28, 35, and 40 are independent claims.

Rejections under §103

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-14, 16-17, and 19-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,506,961 to Carlson et al. (hereafter Carlson) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,567,853 to Shomler (hereafter Shomler). The Applicant respectfully traverses each of these rejections and requests reconsideration.

Examiner Interview Summary

On June 19, 2006 the Applicant's representatives Mr. Jeffrey Duquette and Mr. David Huang conducted a telephonic interview with Examiner Linh Son and Primary Examiner Hosuk Song regarding the patentability of independent claim 1 and the patentability of the combination of independent claim 1 and dependent claim 33 over Carlson in view of Shomler. Both Mr. Duquette and Mr.

Huang wish to thank Examiner Son and Examiner Song for their time and consideration.

In the Interview, Examiners Son and Hosuk indicted that the combination of claim 1 and 33 was patentable over Carlson in view of Shomler. Claim 1 has been amended to include the content of dependent claim 33. The Applicant's understand that, based on the June 19th interview, with the present amendment to claim 1, claim 1 is now in a condition for allowance. The amendment does not add new matter to the application and does not raise new issues that would require further searching and consideration.

Independent claim 1, therefore, patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art, and the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn. Accordingly, claim 1 is in allowable condition. Further, claims 3-6, 27, 31, 36, and 37 which depend from claim 1, are also allowable for the same, is other, reasons.

Examiners Son and Hosuk also indicated in the interview that amendment of the other independent claims in the application with the content of claim 33 would place the claims in a condition for allowance as well. As such, independent claims 7, 13, 14, 17, 20, 26, 28, 35, and 40 have been amended to include the content of claim 33. The amendments do not add new matter to the application and does not raise new issues that would require further searching and consideration.

Independent claims 7, 13, 14, 17, 20, 26, 28, 35, and 40, therefore, patentably distinguish over the cited prior art, and the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn. Further, claims 9-12 and 38 which depend from claim 7, claim 39 which depends from claim 13, claim 16 which depends from claim 14, claim 19 which depends from claim 17, claims 22

and 34 which depend from claim 21, claim 24 which depends from claim 23, and claim 29 which depends from claim 28 are also allowable for the same, and other, reasons.

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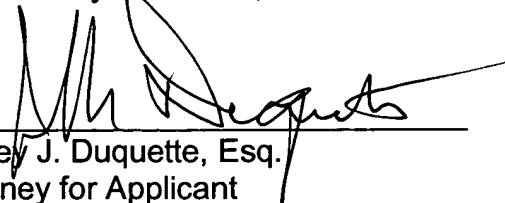
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Response, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicant's Representative at the number below.

The Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3661.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-2900, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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